

*Your guide to*  
**VIRGINIA LAWS**  
*and*  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT**



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SCHOOL SAFETY UNIT



T

eamwork approach to building relationships  
with police

R

emoving barriers to communication  
with youth

U

nified approach to mutual understanding

S

eparating out individual and group prejudice

T

eaching the benefits of recognizing and  
reporting crime



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4</b>	.....>	<b>Message from Chesterfield Police</b>
<b>5</b>	.....>	<b>Our Mission and Goals</b>
<b>6</b>	.....>	<b>Police Encounters</b>
<b>7</b>	.....>	<b>Laws</b>
<b>8</b>	.....>	<b>Alcohol-Related Crimes</b>
<b>9</b>	.....>	<b>Group Offenses</b>
<b>10</b>	.....>	<b>Crimes Against Others</b>
<b>12</b>	.....>	<b>Crimes Against Property</b>
<b>13</b>	.....>	<b>Drug Crimes</b>
<b>14</b>	.....>	<b>Weapons Crimes</b>
<b>15</b>	.....>	<b>Cyber Crimes</b>
<b>16</b>	.....>	<b>Crimes Against Peace</b>
<b>17</b>	.....>	<b>Traffic Infractions</b>
<b>18</b>	.....>	<b>Social Media</b>
<b>19</b>	.....>	<b>Crime and the Community</b>
<b>21</b>	.....>	<b>Law Enforcement Vocabulary</b>



## MESSAGE FROM US

The Chesterfield County Police Department's most important goal is the constant safety of you, your families, friends, and neighbors. You are the future leaders of our county and the United States as a whole; therefore, we place special emphasis on providing this service to young people such as yourself.

The officers of Chesterfield County are people just like you; they are your neighbors, friends, and family. Therefore, we believe that by creating a partnership with our neighborhoods, community policing will become everybody's job and a responsibility that we all share.

This guide is designed to help you understand how police work, explain how officers enforce the law, and help you make good decisions when meeting police officers at any time. Inside you will find definitions of the law, information about the most common types of crimes, how to safely report criminal activity, and several different ways to keep you and your family safe.

Please take this opportunity to learn about how police really feel about you and our desire to make your encounters with us better. We realize that trusting police can sometimes be a difficult task, but we are working tirelessly to earn your confidence. We believe that by working collaboratively, we can and will earn your trust.

Working together as a team, we can make Chesterfield County a safer and more pleasant place for all of us.

## OUR MISSION

The cornerstone of any sound, mutual relationship is TRUST. When each party recognizes that the other is working with them, and has their best interests at heart, it becomes easier for both sides to come together for a common purpose.

The Chesterfield County Police Department is dedicated to taking a more active role in developing a relationship of TRUST with the community. We believe we can do this by working together with community groups, engaging in a greater exchange of ideas and information, and by developing and implementing community outreach programs to engage a greater cross section of the members of our community.

We have put this program together to better communicate to you what we do, why we do it and what your responsibilities are to help us. We have included a number of basic laws, some police vocabulary, and an explanation of some of our practices. Look at this as your guide for dealing with the police.

Our entire reason for existing as a public body is to be good stewards of the public TRUST. We have dedicated ourselves to finding new and innovative ways to gain and maintain that TRUST. This publication is just one way that we can increase the exchange of ideas with you. We hope you find this booklet helpful.

## OUR GOALS

Our goal with this program is to create TRUST through Communication, Collaboration, and Education.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Effectively exchanging ideas and information with the members of our community for increased understanding.

### **COLLABORATION**

Working together with community members and organizations to find a common solution to the current issues plaguing our county.

### **EDUCATION**

Designing and implementing a series of informative and interactive programs to help bridge the knowledge gap between law enforcement and the community at large.



# POLICE ENCOUNTERS

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- We will be polite and professional when interacting with you.
- As soon as feasible and safe, we will explain the reason that you have been stopped or detained.
- We will give you clear instructions and explain our expectations for the duration of the encounter.
- We will apply the law fairly and appropriately, using an objective standard.
- The stop or detention will last only as long as necessary for us to complete our lawful objective.
- We will clearly identify ourselves and our agency and provide our contact information, when safe to do so.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

- Be polite and courteous to the officer(s).
- Follow all directions given by the officer(s).
- Keep hands visible and avoid any sudden or unnecessary movement, unless directed to do so.
- Recognize that your attitude and demeanor may directly influence the way that the officer(s) perceive your actions and respond to you.
- Submit to all lawful commands given to you throughout the duration of the encounter.
- Understand that if you feel like you've been treated unfairly or that your rights have been violated, there are avenues for you to address your grievances after the fact. Fighting or excessively arguing during the stop will only make the situation worse for everyone involved.



# LAWS

One of your civic responsibilities is to know and understand the law and how it applies to you as members of our community. We've decided that the best way to assist you in achieving this is to take some of the mystery out of the law. The following is a selection of state and local laws and ordinances that would be most relevant to your day-to-day lives. These are only summaries; the legal language has been removed for your convenience.

All Virginia laws can be accessed in their entirety at:  
<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/>

**Judges in Chesterfield County all agree that ignorance of the law is not a defense for breaking the law. It is not our responsibility to make sure that you know the law; that is YOUR responsibility. Why not take a few minutes, follow the link, and read up on some state codes?**





## ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIMES

### **§ 4.1-304. Persons to whom alcoholic beverages may not be sold**

No person shall sell any alcoholic beverages to any individual when at the time of such sale he knows or has reason to believe that the individual to whom the sale is made is

(i) less than 21 years of age (ii) interdicted, or [iii] intoxicated.


Any person convicted of a violation of this subsection is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

### **§ 4.1-305. Purchasing or possessing alcoholic beverages unlawful in certain cases**

No person to whom an alcoholic beverage may not lawfully be sold under § 4.1-304 shall consume, purchase, possess, or attempt to consume, purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage except where possession of the alcoholic beverages by a person less than 21 years of age is due to such person's making a delivery of alcoholic beverages in pursuance of his employment or an order of his parent.

### **§ 4.1-309. Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages in or on public school grounds**

No person shall possess or drink any alcoholic beverage in or upon the grounds of any public elementary or secondary school during school hours or school or student activities.



### **§ 18.2-266. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI)**

It shall be unlawful to be in physical control, of any motor vehicle on any highway in the Commonwealth while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. BAC limit >.08. Class 1 misdemeanor.

### **§ 18.2-266.1. Persons under age 21 driving after illegally consuming alcohol**

It shall be Unlawful for anyone under the age of 21 to operate a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol. BAC limit >.02. Class 1 misdemeanor.



## GROUP OFFENSES

### § 18.2-42. Assault or battery by mob.

Any and every person composing a mob which shall commit a simple assault or battery shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. MOB is defined as any collection of people assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing an assault or a battery upon any person or an act of violence as defined in § 19.2-297.1.

**Assault:** An unlawful attempt coupled with a present ability to commit a violent injury on the person of another.

**Battery:** Actually carrying out the threat.

### § 18.2-46.1. Definition of Criminal Street Gang

A “criminal street gang” is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal,

- (i) which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more criminal activities;
- (ii) which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol; and
- (iii) whose members individually or collectively have engaged in the commission of, attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more predicate criminal acts, at least one of which is an act of violence, provided such acts were not part of a common act or transaction.

### § 18.2-46.2. Prohibited criminal street gang participation

A. Any person who actively participates in or is a member of a criminal street gang and who knowingly and willfully participates in any predicate criminal act committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal street gang shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.



# CRIMES AGAINST OTHERS

## **§ 18.2-57. Assault and battery**

A. Any person who commits a simple assault or assault and battery is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. In addition, if any person commits an assault or an assault and battery against another knowing or having reason to know that such other person is a law-enforcement officer, such person is guilty of a Class 6 felony; and upon conviction, the sentence of such person shall include a mandatory minimum term of confinement of six months.

Additionally, if any person commits a battery against another knowing or having reason to know that such other person is a full-time or part-time employee of any public or private elementary or secondary school and is engaged in the performance of his duties as such, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; and the sentence of such person upon conviction shall include a sentence of 15 days in jail, two days of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of confinement. However, if the offense is committed by use of a firearm or other weapon prohibited on school property pursuant to § 18.2-308.1, the person shall serve a mandatory minimum sentence of confinement of six months.

## **§ 18.2-51.2. Aggravated malicious wounding**

If any person maliciously shoots, stabs, cuts or wounds any other person, or by any means causes bodily injury with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony if the victim is thereby severely injured and is caused to suffer permanent and significant physical impairment.

## **§ 18.2-51.3. Prohibition against reckless endangerment of others by throwing objects from places higher than one story**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, with the intent to cause injury to another, to intentionally throw from a balcony, rooftop, or other place more than one story above ground level any object capable of causing any such injury. A violation of this section shall be punishable as a Class 6 felony.

## **§ 18.2-56.1. Reckless handling of firearm**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to handle recklessly any firearm so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any.

## **§ 18.2-54.2. Adulteration of food, drink, drugs, cosmetics, etc.**

Any person who adulterates or causes to be adulterated any food, drink, prescription or over-the-counter medicine, cosmetic or other substance with the intent to kill or injure any individual who ingests, inhales or uses such substance shall be guilty of a Class 3 felony.

**Adulterate:**  
Change/alter in  
a negative way.

## **§ 18.2-57.01. Pointing laser at law-enforcement officer unlawful**

If any person, knowing or having reason to know another person is a law-enforcement officer intentionally projects at such other person a beam or a point of light from a laser, a laser gun sight, or any device that simulates a laser, shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

## **§ 18.2-57.2. Assault and battery against a family or household member**

A. Any person who commits an assault and battery against a family or household member is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

§ 18.2-58 Robbery

If any person commits robbery by partial strangulation or suffocation or by striking or beating or by other violence to the person, or by assault or otherwise putting a person in fear of serious bodily harm, or by the threat or presenting of firearms or other deadly weapon or instrumentality whatsoever, he shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by confinement in a state correctional facility for life or any term not less than five years.

**Robbery:** Felonious taking of personal property in the possession of another from his person or immediate presence and against his will accomplished by means of force or fear.

§ 18.2-60. Threats of death or bodily injury to a person or member of his family; threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property

1. Any person who knowingly communicates in a writing, including an electronically transmitted communication producing a visual or electronic message, a threat to kill or do bodily injury to a person, regarding that person or any member of his family, and the threat places such person in reasonable apprehension of death or bodily injury to himself or his family member, is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

FELONIES	
Class 1	Life in prison or death - up to a \$100,000 fine
Class 2	20 years to life in prison up to a \$100,000 fine
Class 3	5-20 years in prison up to a \$100,000 fine
Class 4	2-10 years in prison up to a 100,000 fine
Class 5	1-10 years in prison up to a 2,500 fine
Class 6	1-5 years in prison up to a \$2,500 fine
MISDEMEANORS	
Class 1	Up to 12 months in jail or up to \$2,500
Class 2	Up to 6 months in jail or up to a \$1,000 fine
Class 3	Up to a \$500 fine
Class 4	Up to a \$250 fine

2. Any person who communicates a threat to kill or do bodily harm on any school property, at any school-sponsored event or on a school bus is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

B. Any person who orally makes a threat to any employee of any school, while on a school bus, on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, to kill or to do bodily injury to such person, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

§ 18.2-60.3. Stalking

Any person, except a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, and acting in the performance of his official duties, and a registered private investigator, as defined in § 9.1-138, who is regulated in accordance with § 9.1-139 and acting in the course of his legitimate business, who on more than one occasion engages in conduct directed at another person with the intent to place or when he knows or reasonably should know that the conduct places that other person in reasonable fear of death, criminal sexual assault or bodily injury to that other person or to that other person's family or household member is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

# CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

## **§ 18.2-83. Threats to bomb or damage buildings or means of transportation; false information as to danger to such buildings, etc.;**

A. Any person (a) who makes and communicates to another by any means any threat to bomb, burn, destroy or in any manner damage any place of assembly, building or other structure, or any means of transportation, or (b) who communicates to another, by any means, information, knowing the same to be false, as to the existence of any peril of bombing, burning, destruction or damage to any such place of assembly, building or other structure, or any means of transportation, shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony; provided, however, that if such person be under fifteen years of age, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## **§ 18.2-89. Burglary**

If any person break and enter the dwelling house of another in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony or any larceny therein, he shall be guilty of burglary, punishable as a Class 3 felony; provided, however, that if such person was armed with a deadly weapon at the time of such entry, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.



**Larceny:** Stealing; taking something that doesn't belong to you.

## **§ 18.2-95. Grand larceny**

## **§ 18.2-96. Petit larceny**

Any person who (i) commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value of \$5 or more, (ii) commits simple larceny from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of \$200 or more shall be guilty of GRAND LARCENY, punishable as a Class 6 felony. Any person who commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value of less than \$5, or commits simple larceny from the person of

another of goods and chattels of the value of less than \$200 shall be deemed guilty of PETIT LARCENY, which shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## **§ 18.2-119. Trespass after having been forbidden to do so**

If any person without authority of law goes upon or remains upon the lands, buildings or premises of another, or any portion or area thereof after having been forbidden to do so either orally or in writing by the owner, lessee, custodian, or the agent of any such person, or other person lawfully in charge thereof or after having been forbidden to do so by a sign or signs posted where it or they may be reasonably seen, goes upon or remains upon such land, building or premises after having been prohibited from doing so shall be guilty of trespass, punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.



# DRUG CRIMES

## **§ 18.2-248. Manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance prohibited;**

Except as authorized in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, give, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, sell, give or distribute a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance.

### **§ 18.2-248.01. Transporting controlled substances into the Commonwealth;**

It is unlawful for any person to transport into the Commonwealth by any means with intent to sell or distribute one ounce or more of cocaine, coca leaves or any salt, compound, derivative or preparation thereof as described in Schedule II of the Drug Control Act or one ounce or more of any other Schedule I or II controlled substance or five or more pounds of marijuana. A violation of this section shall constitute a separate and distinct felony.



### **§ 18.2-250.1. Possession of marijuana unlawful.**

It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess marijuana. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be confined in jail not more than 30 days and fined not more than \$500, either or both; any person, upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

### **§ 18.2-264. Inhaling drugs or other noxious chemical substances or causing, etc., others to do so**



It shall be unlawful, except under the direction of a practitioner as defined in § 54.1-3401, for any person deliberately to smell or inhale any drugs or any other noxious chemical substances including but not limited to fingernail polish or model airplane glue containing any ketones, aldehydes, organic acetates, ether, chlorinated hydrocarbons or vapors, with the intent to become intoxicated, inebriated, excited, stupefied or to dull the brain or nervous system. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.



## WEAPONS CRIMES

### **§ 18.2-279. Discharging firearms or missiles within or at building or dwelling house**

If any person maliciously discharges a firearm within any building when occupied by one or more persons in

such a manner as to endanger the life or lives of such person or persons, or maliciously shoots at, or maliciously throws any missile at or against any dwelling house or other building when occupied by one or more persons, whereby the life or lives of any such person or persons may be put in peril, the person so offending is guilty of a Class 4 felony. If any such act be done unlawfully, but not maliciously, the person so offending is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

### **§ 18.2-282. Pointing, holding, or brandishing firearm, air or gas operated weapon or object similar in appearance**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to point, hold or brandish any firearm or air/gas operated weapon or object similar in appearance, whether capable of being fired or not, in such manner as to induce fear in the mind of another or hold a such weapon in a public place in such a manner as to induce fear of being shot or injured. This section shall not apply to any person engaged in justifiable self-defense. Persons violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor or, if the violation occurs upon any elementary, middle or high school, including buildings and grounds or upon public property within 1,000 feet of such property, he shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony. (§ 18.2-282.1: The same shall apply to any bladed weapon greater than 12")

### **§ 18.2-308. Carrying concealed weapons**

A. If any person carries about his person, hidden from common observation, any gun, knife, striking or throwing weapon as described in this code section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

### **§ 18.2-308.1. Possession of firearm, stun weapon, or other weapon on school property prohibited; penalty.**

A. If any person knowingly possesses any stun weapon, knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or any described in subsection A of § 18.2-308, upon the property of any elementary, middle or high school, including buildings and grounds; property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place; or any school bus owned or operated by any such school, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Possession of a firearm on the same type of premises shall be punished as a Class 6 felony.



# CYBER CRIMES

## **§ 18.2-374.1:1. Possession, reproduction, distribution, solicitation, and facilitation of child pornography.**

Any person who knowingly reproduces by any means, including by computer, sells, gives away, distributes, electronically transmits, displays, purchases, or possesses child pornography or commands, entreats, or otherwise attempts to persuade another person to send, submit, transfer or provide to him any child pornography shall be guilty of a felony punishable by between 5 and 20 years in prison.

## **§ 18.2-386.2. Unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another**

Any person who, with the intent to coerce, harass, or intimidate, disseminates or sells any video or image created that depicts another person who is totally nude, or in a state of undress so as to expose areas of the body commonly covered by a bathing suit, without proper permits or licensing is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## **§ 18.2-427. Use of profane, threatening, or indecent language over public airways or by other methods.**

Any person who uses obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, or makes any suggestion or proposal of an obscene nature, or threatens any illegal or immoral act with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, over any telephone or citizens band radio in this Commonwealth is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. This includes any electronically transmitted communication producing a visual or electronic message that is received or transmitted by cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunications device.

## **§ 18.2-152.7:1Harassment by computer**

This is the law that regulates CYBER BULLYING. If any person, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, shall use a computer or computer network to communicate obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, or make any suggestion or proposal of an obscene nature, or threaten any illegal or immoral act, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.



## CRIMES AGAINST PEACE

**§ 18.2-415. Disorderly conduct in public places.** A person is guilty of disorderly conduct if, with the intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof in any public place, engage in conduct having a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person or persons at whom, individually, such conduct is directed; or disrupts the operation of any school or any activity conducted or sponsored by any school, if the disruption prevents or interferes with the orderly conduct of the operation or activity.

**§ 18.2-416. Punishment for using abusive language to another.** If any person shall, in the presence or hearing of another, curse or abuse such other person, or use any violent abusive language to such person concerning himself or any of his relations, or otherwise use such language, under circumstances reasonably calculated to provoke a breach of

the peace, he shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

**§ 18.2-460. Obstructing justice** If any person without just cause knowingly obstructs any law-enforcement officer in the performance of his duties as such or fails or refuses without just cause to cease such obstruction when requested to do so shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**§ 18.2-461. Falsely summoning or giving false reports to law-enforcement officials.** It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly give a false report as to the commission of any crime to any law-enforcement official with intent to mislead, or with intent to interfere with the operations of any law-enforcement official, to call or summon any law-enforcement official by telephone or other means, including engagement or activation of an automatic emergency alarm. Violation of the provisions of this section shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS

**§ 46.2-300. Driving without license prohibited:** It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle on

any public roadway without a valid operators license.



**§ 46.2-334. Conditions and requirements for licensure of persons under 18:** Minors at least 16 years and three months old may be issued driver's licenses under the following conditions: Successful completion of a drivers education course, 16 years and 3 months old, mentally, physically, and otherwise qualified to drive a motor vehicle safely.

**§ 46.2-816. Following too closely:** The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, with due regard to the speed of both vehicles and the traffic on, and conditions of, the highway at the time.

**§ 46.2-817. Disregarding signal by law-enforcement officer to stop; eluding police:** Any person who, having received a visible or audible signal from any law-enforcement officer to bring his motor vehicle to a stop, drives such motor vehicle in disregard of such signal or who attempts to escape or elude such law-enforcement officer whether on foot, in the vehicle, or by any other means, is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. If that operator drives such motor vehicle in a willful and wanton disregard of such signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of the law-enforcement vehicle or endanger a person is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

**§ 46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule:** Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.

**§ 46.2-1078.1. Use of handheld personal communications devices while driving:** It is unlawful for any person to operate a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth while using any handheld personal communications

device to compose or read text messages or e-mail communications.

**§ 46.2-1094. Occupants of front seats of motor vehicles required to use seat belts:** Any driver, and any other person at least 18 years of age and occupying the front seat, of a motor vehicle shall wear the appropriate safety belt system at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion on any public highway. A passenger under the age of 18 years, however, shall be protected at all times with a safety belt.

**§ 46.2-1095. Child restraint devices required when transporting certain children; safety belts for passengers less than eighteen years old required; penalty.:** Any person who drives on the highways of Virginia any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall ensure that any child, up to age eight, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device of a type which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation. Further, rear-facing child restraint devices shall be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated. Any person transporting another person less than 18 years old, except for those required pursuant to subsection A to be secured in a child restraint device, shall ensure that such person is provided with and properly secured by an appropriate safety belt system when driving on the highways of Virginia in any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, equipped or required by the provisions of this title to be equipped with a safety belt system, consisting of lap belts, shoulder harnesses, combinations thereof or similar devices.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

What is social media? Any form of electronic communication, web sites for social networking and microblogging through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (as videos)

-Merriam/Webster Dictionary-

Examples: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, skype, pintrest, vine, kik, yik-yak and Snapchat.

How it impacts you: Everything you put on social media is permanent,

**everything that you post on the Internet will remain there FOREVER!**

Even though some social media sites might deny it, all sites keep a record of your activity.

Law enforcement can legally gain access to this information under certain circumstances. Criminals also use social media to gather information that you have made available—information that they may use to take advantage of you. Making threats via social media could result in:

## 18.2-83:

Threats to bomb or damage buildings or means of transportation; false information about danger to such buildings, etc.

## 18.2-60:

Threats of death or bodily injury to a person or member of his family; threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property.

## 18.2-152.7:1:

Harassment by Computer. If any person, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, shall use a computer or computer network to communicate obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, or make any suggestion or proposal of an obscene nature, or threaten any illegal or immoral act, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## Before you...



## THINK!!

**T** = is it True?

**H** = is it Helpful?

**I** = is it Inspiring?

**N** = is it Nice?

**K** = is it Kind?

# CRIME AND THE COMMUNITY

## INTIMIDATION

Victims of crime are reluctant to live normal, productive lives for fear of revenge by criminals, who rely on the fear caused by their activities. Criminals often claim ownership over neighborhoods in order to more easily commit crimes without opposition from neighborhood residents.

**Are you aware of intimidation in your community, including your school?**

**Have you been a victim of intimidation?**

## BROKEN WINDOW THEORY

The “broken window theory” refers to run-down buildings, parks, homes, and roads, all of which are signatures of crime. Consequently, these conditions discourage organizations and businesses from investing or remaining in such neighborhoods.

**How do you feel about your neighborhood?**

**What changes would you make to improve your neighborhood?**

## EDUCATION DECLINE

Schools can be targeted by criminals who resent those who try to better themselves. The criminal often disrupts the classroom to prevent students from learning.

Criminals who remain in school often create an uncomfortable atmosphere through intimidation, defiance, and disruption. By creating an uncomfortable climate, the classroom criminal creates a threatening atmosphere that negatively affects every student.

**Have you or other students ceased participating in class discussion or become embarrassed for doing well in class for fear of being ridiculed for your efforts?**



## MISTRUST IN LEADERSHIP

Frustrated victims and community members lose faith in leadership to manage the criminal element. The public may begin viewing police as overly aggressive or too passive when addressing crime.

**What is your relationship with the Chesterfield County Police?**

**Why do you feel as you do? What can the police department do to improve community relations?**

Our top priority is to make sure you feel safe in your community. We have established specialized units, such as Community Action Policing, Crime Prevention and School Safety to help accomplish this. However, we are always looking to improve. If there is something that we can do better, or if there is some crime in your neighborhood that you would like addressed, here are some ways to contact us.

- In-progress crime: Call 911 or 804-748-1251 (non-emergency).
- <http://www.chesterfield.gov/OnlineCrimeReport> to file a crime (not in progress) electronically.
- If you wish to report a crime or have information about a crime (there is no time limit for reporting) call Crime Solvers at 804-748-0660 or visit [crimesolvers.net](http://crimesolvers.net). You can also text your tip by dialing 274637 and start your tip with the keyword WATSON. You will remain completely anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward should your tip assist police with their investigation.
- Your School Resource Officers are always available should you wish to share information about a crime with them.

Have you been the victim of any kind of crime?

If so, was there anything you could have or should have done to prevent it?

What measures could you have taken?

## IN SUMMARY

It is and has always been the goal of the Chesterfield County Police Department to earn and keep the public trust. One of the greatest challenges to that goal is the gap of knowledge between the Police Department and the people we serve.

This program is just one step in our efforts to close that gap. Hopefully, the information here has provided better insight into the role of police officers, the criminal justice system, and the relationship between the two institutions and the community. Through Communication, Collaboration and Education, the Chesterfield County Police Department will continue to strive to earn your complete **T R U S T**.





# LAW ENFORCEMENT VOCABULARY

**Assault:** To cause the apprehension of intentional or harmful physical contact.

**Adult:** Any person 18 years of age or older.

**Battery:** Acting in a manner to cause intentional or harmful physical contact.

**Bullying:** Intentional or repeated actions by one or more persons against another. These actions include words, gestures, name calling, threats, and/or shunning.

**Burglary:** The unlawful entry into a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. A "structure" can be defined as any building, railroad car, garage, house trailer, houseboat, permanent structure, room, barn, stable, mill, or ship.

**Case Law:** Judgments and prior court interpretations of laws.

**Child in Need of Services:** According to the Code of Virginia, a child whose behavior, conducts, or condition poses a risk of harm to himself or herself or to another person.

**Child in Need of Supervision:** A child who is habitually absent from school or who abandons his or her family or guardian in a manner that requires intervention by the court to protect the child's welfare

**Civil Law:** Laws that define the rights and duties of one individual to another.

**Constitutional Law:** The interpretation and implementation of laws that originate in the United States Constitution and Constitution of Virginia.

**Controlled Substances:** Substances restricted by the government due to their detrimental nature.

**Courts:** Responsible for interpreting laws. Part of the judicial branch of government.

**Crime:** An act in violation of local, state or federal penal laws

**Criminal Law:** Laws that define behavior that is considered to be illegal.

**Curfew:** A local ordinance restricting the time when a juvenile is allowed to be out on the street without lawful reason.

**Custody:** The care and control of a thing or person.

**Cyberbullying:** Harassing another person through use of technology.

**Detention Center:** Also known as "juvie," a place where juveniles may be held until their court hearing.

**Detention Order:** An order issued by an intake officer stating the juvenile must be held in a detention center until he/she can be brought before a judge.

**Disorderly Conduct:** To engage in any behavior towards another person that would provoke a violent reaction. To engage in any behavior that disturbs the orderly activity of a school or church.

**Domestic Violence:** Abusive behavior and/or assault towards a family member.

**Driving Under the Influence ("DUI"):** Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

**Drug Paraphernalia:** All equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used for converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing a controlled substance into the human body.

**Due Process:** The Constitutional guarantee that people are treated fairly by the government, as written in the Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

**Felony:** A crime punishable by death or confinement in the penitentiary.

**Harassment:** To repeatedly annoy or attack a person or group in such a way as to cause anxiety or fear for safety.

**Hate crimes:** Crimes motivated by bias against a certain race, religion, disability, or ethnicity.

**Hazing:** To recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or to inflict bodily injury on a student in connection with admission into a group.

**Infraction:** A violation of law not punishable by imprisonment. Minor traffic offenses are generally considered infractions

**Intake Officer:** An officer of the Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court who receives and reviews juvenile matters and determines whether to involve the court or even to issue a detention order.

**Intent:** The reason behind an action; the state of mind of someone committing an act.

**Intimidation:** To make another person fearful of bodily harm using threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or physically attacking the person.

**Juvenile:** Any person under 18 years of age.

**Juvenile Court:** Officially called Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, this court deals specifically with juvenile and family matters.

**Juvenile Justice System:** A separate part of the justice system that deals only with juvenile crime and juvenile matters.

**Larceny:** Taking someone else's personal property with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently.

**Laws:** Rules and regulations created and enforced by the government.

**Minor in Possession of Alcohol:** Someone under the age of 21 possessing and/or transporting alcohol or drugs.

**Miranda Warning:** Also referred to as Miranda Rights, these are read to a suspect before questioning when that suspect is not free to leave.

**Misdemeanor:** Offenses punishable by no more than a \$2,500 fine and/or 12 months in jail.

**Motor Vehicle:** Every vehicle as defined in this section that is self-propelled or designed for self-propulsion except as otherwise provided in this title. For example: A tractor or riding lawn mower.

**Reasonable Suspicion:** The totality of circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe a crime has been, is being, or is about to be committed.

**Robbery:** Taking personal property from another through violence or intimidation.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** A certified law enforcement officer hired by the local law enforcement agency to provide law enforcement and security services to Virginia public elementary and secondary schools. (Code of Virginia §9.1-101)

**School Security Officer (SSO):** A school employee responsible for maintaining order, safety, and discipline, preventing crime, investigating violations of school policies, and detaining students violating the law or school policies on school property (Code of Virginia §9.1-101)

**Sexting:** Transmitting sexually explicit messages and/or photos by electronic means.

**Shoplifting:** Taking goods from a store without payment or the intent to pay.

**Stimulant:** A substance that temporarily increases the function of the heart, lungs, brain, and/or nervous system.

**Street Gang:** A group of three or more persons who join together for the purpose of committing crimes.

**Subpoena:** A command issued by the court system requiring an individual to give testimony on a specified date and time.

**Theft:** Taking someone's property without the intent to return it.

**Threat:** A communication that implies intent to kill or do bodily injury to a person or any member of his or her family and places the person in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury.

**Tobacco:** Leaves of the nicotine-rich tobacco plant, prepared in such a way to be smoked, dipped or chewed so the nicotine is absorbed into the body. Illegal under the age of 18.

**Trespass:** Entering another's property without permission or remaining after being asked to leave.

**Trial:** A formal proceeding before a judge and/or jury to determine the outcome of an issue before the court.

**Truancy:** An intentional, repeated absence from school.

**Vandalism:** Willful or ignorant destruction of public or private property.

**Victim:** A person harmed by a crime

**Violation:** Any unlawful act committed on a person, property or rights of another

**Warrant:** A legal document authorizing action by a law enforcement officer.

**Witness:** A person who testifies under oath in court about what he/she has seen or heard.

# THE TEAM

Chesterfield County Police Department  
Colonel Thierry Dupuis

Community Services Division  
Captain David Fuller

Production Team/School Safety Unit  
Lieutenant Stephen Fortier  
Sergeant David Samuels  
Corporal Jeffrey Auxier  
Corporal Cynthia Lyons-Chambers  
Career Officer James Barrett  
Career Officer John Parris  
Career Officer Dustin Woolson  
Master Officer Nate Ballentine

Editor Andrew Gregory  
Design Jennifer Lee

*We thank the Seattle, Washington, Police Department for sharing its Youth Guide with us.*



**I**NTEGRITY  
**S**ERVICE  
**P**ROFESSIONALISM  
**I**NNOVATION  
**R**ESPONSIBILITY  
**E**XCELLENCE

# USEFUL RESOURCE GUIDE

## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Emergency

911

### Non-Emergency

(804) 748-1251

### Headquarters

10001 Iron Bridge Road

Chesterfield, Va. 23832

(804) 748-1269

### Chester Station

2920 West Hundred Road

Chester, VA 23831

(804) 748-1269

### Midlothian Station

20 North Providence Road

North Chesterfield, VA 23235

(804) 748-1269

### Hull Street Station

6812 Woodlake Commons Loop

Midlothian, VA 23112

(804) 748-1269

### Crime Solvers Anonymous Tip Line

(804) 748-0660

Text: WATSON plus tip to 247637 (Crime)

### Volunteer Opportunities

(804) 318-8995

### Parks and Recreation Department

(804) 748-1623

### Youth Planning and Development/S.A.F.E.

(804) 796-7100

### County 24-hour Crisis Line

(804) 748-6356

### Social Services Department

(804) 748-1100

### 24-Hour Child Protective Hotline

(804) 751-4339

### National Institute of Drug Abuse Hotline

(800) 662-Help (4357)

### National Alcohol 24-hour Helpline

(800) Alcohol (252-6465)

### National Drug 24-hour Helpline

(800) 821-4357



Chesterfield County Police Department  
Community Services Division School Safety Unit  
2730 Hicks Road  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235  
(804) 318-8699